

# Impact Wrestling – April 20, 2023: Dang This Stuff Works

## Impact Wrestling

Date: April 20, 2023

Location: Rebel Entertainment Complex, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Commentators: Matthew Rehwoldt, Tom Hannifan

We are done with Rebellion and the biggest story is the new World Champion, having defeated Kushida to win the vacant title. At the same time, Deonna Purrazzo is once again Knockouts Champion, having defeated Jordynne Grace for the vacant title in the show's main event. Let's get to it.

[Here is Rebellion if you need a recap.](#)

We look at the new champions being crowned at Rebellion.

## Mike Bailey/Jonathan Gresham/Trey Miguel vs. Time Machine

Gresham and Shelley go technical to start for a standoff so it's off to Bailey vs. Sabin. An armbar has Bailey in trouble as commentary points out that everyone but Miguel lost at Rebellion. Kushida comes in and gets sent into the corner, where Miguel rakes his back. That doesn't last long as Kushida gets over to his own corner, allowing all of Time Machine to crank on Miguel's arm.

It's off to Bailey, who gets caught in the Tree of Woe for a triple dropkick as the dominance continues. Shelley starts in on Bailey's arm before it's back to Kushida, who kicks Gresham and Miguel off the apron in a smart move. Everything breaks down and Sabin hits a suicide dive onto Gresham and Miguel as we take a break.

Back with Bailey's arm still in trouble but he kicks his way

to freedom. Gresham comes in and gets to face Kushida with Gresham getting a series of near falls. Sabin accidentally kicks Shelley in the chest though and it's Miguel getting to clean house. Bailey busts out the slingshot springboard moonsault onto the pile on the floor but Kushida Hoverboard Locks Miguel. Time Machine all get submission holds on at once and we take another break.

Back again with Miguel knocking Kushida into the corner. That doesn't last long as it's back to Sabin, who gets to slug it out with Shelley. Bailey kicks him down and this the moonsault double knees to the chest. Sabin is back up with a German superplex and Shelley/Kushida break up the tag attempts. Bailey manages the Ultimate Weapon to a standing Sabin's back as everything breaks down. The parade of strikes to the face leads to Kushida kicking Miguel in the face, setting up Cradle Shock for the pin at 26:35.

**Rating:** B. Like this wasn't going to work. They had all six guys getting time and Bailey getting beaten up. What else could you want in a match? The ending even sets up Sabin (though Kushida and Shelley could be right there too) as Miguel's next challenger, which boosts up the competition a good bit. Very solid opener here as they let six talented people have a long, long TV match and it worked.

Santino Marella is happy with his in-ring return but says he won't be returning to the ring very often. Alisha Edwards interrupts to yell about PCO but Santino sends her to the ring for her match. Gia Miller: "Did she have a match tonight?" Santino: "She does now." Johnny Swinger and Zicky Dice come in to ask about Swinger's match but Santino says he can't keep wasting resources on a loser. Dice has found the world's greatest luchador though, and he'll even pay for said luchador's appearance and transportation. Even Santino is down with that.

Video on Deonna Purrazzo, the new Knockouts Champion.

## Alisha Edwards vs. Tara Rysing

Alisha takes Tara into the corner to start and sends her flying without much effort. Tara manages a clothesline out of the corner but gets sent outside. Back in and an X Factor finishes Rysing at 2:27.

Post match Edwards stays on Tara but Jody Threat makes the save.

Post break Threat promises to take care of Edwards for Rysing.

## Moose vs. Yuya Uemura

Brian Myers and Bhupinder Gujjar are here too. Moose takes him straight into the corner to start but gets pulled into an armbar. With Moose on the floor, Uemura loads up a dive but Myers takes the impact for him. That earns Uemura an apron bomb and Moose shoves him around back inside. Uemura fights up but Myers offers a distraction, allowing Moose to knock him back down.

Back in and Uemura hits a dropkick, followed by a middle rope bulldog for two. Moose suplexes his way out of a suplex but gets caught in a German suplex. Uemura's high crossbody is broken up so Moose goes up, only to get belly to back superplexed down. Now the high crossbody can connect but Myers offers the distraction. Gujjar goes after him but Moose sends Uemura throat first into the top rope. The spear finishes Uemura at 9:57.

**Rating:** C+. Power vs. speed with interference mixed in worked well enough here and Uemura is feeling more and more like a player every week. He's no longer just the guy on excursion but rather someone who might be something around here. Granted that isn't going to have the longest future, but for now I can settle for a young, talented star giving Moose a nice match.

Nick Aldis is happy to be back and tells us some of his

history around here. He's coming for Steve Maclin and the World Title because he knows what it's like to be under that pressure. As soon as Maclin's strong legs start to wobble, Aldis will be right there to take the title from him. As usual, Aldis cuts a good promo, but he's only so interesting.

### Frankie Kazarian vs. Good Hands

Kazarian slugs away to start but gets caught in the wrong corner rather quickly. A dropkick puts both Hands down at once but Skyler low bridges Kazarian to the floor. Back in and Kazarian takes over without much trouble, setting up a Figure Four and small package for two at the same time. The slingshot cutter hits Hotch and the chickenwing finishes Skyler at 3:40.

**Rating:** C. Just a showcase for Kazarian here, which wasn't the most thrilling stuff but it wasn't supposed to be. Kazarian getting a push is a fine way to go as he would be a good choice for a one off World Title shot at Maclin. You aren't likely to get anything worse than pretty good out of him so warming him up like this could be a rather smart move.

The Coven is coming for Deonna Purrazzo.

Sami Callihan talks about how smart he is and claims to have infiltrated the Design to take them down from within. Was that really supposed to be a surprise?

### Digital Media Title: Joe Hendry vs. Sheldon Jean

Hendry is defending and brings up Jean being on Big Brother Canada but having his season cut off by the Coronavirus pandemic. Jean shrugs off an early beatdown and hammers Hendry down on the mat for a bit of a surprise. That's enough for Hendry, who fights up with some clotheslines. The fall away slam sets up...actually a strike off until Jean gets dropped. The Standing Ovation retains the title at 4:33.

**Rating:** C. This was a little longer than I expected and Jean

got in a nice bit of offense so it might have been a tryout for him. Hendry got to break the smallest bit of a sweat to retain, but the real perk here was the energy that he brings. The motivational stuff is great and I could see Hendry going pretty far around here, as the fans are into him and that's what matters a lot of the time.

Here's what's coming on various shows.

It's time for new World Champion Steve Maclin's Changing Of The Guard ceremony. Maclin walks to the ring under military guard and talks about having to learn who he was when he came back. Now he's the World Champion and issues the open challenge to any Canadian. Cue Scott D'Amore to say he's not happy with Maclin being the champion but he earned it. Why did Maclin take so long to go after Josh Alexander during his record title reign?

Maclin laughs him off because he was hoping the old D'Amore would show up. D'Amore says Maclin hit him like a coward and the jacket comes off. If Maclin wants to face a Canadian at Under Siege, he can face the perfect Canadian: Perfect Creation One, PCO! Cue PCO to beat up the guards, with Maclin bailing. Some guards are put through a table to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** B-. I'm running out of ways to say it but Impact continues to be a completely watchable wrestling show every week. You can follow the stories really easily and it isn't hard to jump into a lot of this stuff. They were at a new starting point with a lot of the stories this week, but there is enough to have more going on next week. Good show here, with a rather nice opener and a surprise first challenger for Maclin makes it even better.

### Results

Time Machine b. Trey Miguel/Jonathan Gresham/Mike Bailey – Cradle Shock to Miguel

Alisha Edwards b. Tara Rysing – Facebuster

Moose b. Yuya Uemura – Spear

Frankie Kazarian b. Good Hands – Chickenwing to Skyler

Joe Hendry b. Sheldon Jean – Standing Ovation

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[Rebellion 2023](#)

[Monday Night Raw – April 17, 2023](#)

[NXT – April 18, 2023](#)

[Dynamite – April 19, 2023](#)

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WRESTLING RUMORS: New Details On AEW Saturday Show, Bigger Than Expected?

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/wrestling-rumors-new-details-aew-saturday-show-bigger-expected/>

Not Happy: Fans Go Off On WWE For Latest Superstar Loss

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/not-happy-fans-go-off-wwe-latest-superstar-loss/>

On The Bad Side: Update On Missing WWE Star, Injury Getting Worse

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/bad-side-update-missing-wwe-star-injury-getting-worse/>

She Wants In: 39 Year Old Former WWE Star Wants To Be An Uso And Join The Bloodline

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/wants-39-year-old-former-wwe-star-wants-uso-join-bloodline/>

Join The Club? Cody Rhodes Reportedly Looking Into Hollywood Roles, Has Special Condition

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/join-club-cody-rhodes-reportedly-looking-hollywood-roles-special-condition/>

WATCH: Former WWE Star Scores Knockout Win In Boxing Debut

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/watch-former-wwe-star-scores-knockout-win-boxing-debut/>

He Did It! New World Champion Crowned Over The Weekend.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/new-world-champion-crowned-weekend/>

WATCH: Austin Theory Upsets A Young Fan At WWE Live Event.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/watch-austin-theory-upsets-young-fan-wwe-live-event/>

WATCH: Wendy's Blasts Baron Corbin For National Roast Day.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/watch-wendys-blasts-baron-corbin-national-roast-day/>

Him? WWE Fans Push For Surprise Roman Reigns Challenger At Night Of Champions.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/wwe-fans-push-surprise-roman-reigns-challenger-night-champions/>

WATCH: Kevin Owens Makes Amends With Texas Fans In Rather Strange Way.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/watch-kevin-owens-makes-amends-texas-fans-rather-strange-way/>

WATCH: 43 Year Old WWE Star Says He's Coming For The World Title.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/watch-43-year-old-wwe-star-says-hes-coming-world-title/>

Blood N Guts? WWE CEO Nick Khan Discusses Possible More Violent Edge To Monday Night Raw.

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Another Accomplishment: Rey Mysterio Reveals Pain Killer Addiction During WWE Career.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/another-accomplishment-rey-mysterio-reveals-pain-killer-addiction-wwe-career/>

A Pair To Draw With: First Two Matches Officially Set For WWE



Backlash.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/pair-draw-first-two-matches-officially-set-wwe-backlash/>

Man Down? Reported Reason Becky Lynch Missed Monday Night Raw, WWE Contract Status.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/man-becky-lynch-misses-monday-night-raw-drops-wwe-name-twitter/>

WATCH: Trish Stratus Gives A Very Interesting Explanation For Turning On Becky Lynch.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/watch-trish-stratus-gives-interesting-explanation-turning-becky-lynch/>

A Face In The Crowd: Surprise Return Takes Place On Monday Night Raw.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/face-crowd-surprise-return-takes-place-monday-night-raw/>

He Has A Goal: Missing 37 Year Old WWE Star Wants To Face Roman Reigns.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/goal-missing-37-year-old-wwe-star-wants-face-roman-reigns/>

WATCH: Wrestling Legend Reveals He Is Stepping Away For The Time Being.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/watch-wrestling-legend-reveals-stepping-away-time/>

Nope: Wrestling Fans Unload On SmackDown Stars After Crushing Loss.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/nope-wrestling-fans-unload-smackdown-stars-crushing-loss/>

He's Still Got It: Wrestling Fans Rave Over Former WWE Star's Return To The Ring.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/hes-still-got-wrestling-fans-rave-former-wwe-stars-return-ring/>

That's Impressive: Former WWE Star Reveals Awesome Weight Loss.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/thats-impressive-former-wwe-star-reveals-awesome-weight-loss/>

Scheduling Fun: News On Why WWE Is Holding The Draft As They Are.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/scheduling-fun-news-wwe-holding-draft/>

He's Next? Goldberg Is Unhappy With Lack Of Retirement Match, Original Plans With WWE.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/hes-next-goldberg-unhappy-lack-retirement-match-original-plans-wwe/>

Brackets Busted? Update On King And Queen Of The Ring Tournaments In WWE.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/brackets-busted-update-king-queen-ring-tournaments-wwe/>

A Bit Longer: Update On Ronda Rousey's Injury Status.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/bit-longer-update-ronda-rouseys-injury-status/>

Team Up: WWE Reportedly In Discussions With ESPN About Renewing Relationship.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/team-wwe-reportedly-discussions-espn-renewing-relationship/>

WOW: 58 Year Old Former WWE Star Is Looking Jacked In The Gym.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/wow-58-year-old-former-wwe-star-looking-jacked-gym/>

Keep Waiting: Update On Drew McIntyre's WWE Status.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/keep-waiting-update-drew-mcintyres-wwe-status/>

That's Why: 45 Year Old Former WWE Star Reveals Why He Walked Away From Wrestling.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/thats-former-wwe-star-reveals-walked-away-wrestling/>

Welcome Back: WWE Stars Expected To Return To Twitch Following New Policy.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/welcome-back-wwe-stars-expected-return-twitch-following-new-policy/>

It Almost Got Serious: How A Weird WWE Star Almost Got Triple H Fired.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/almost-got-serious-weird-wwe-star-almost-got-triple-h-fired/>

She Did It Anyway: Trish Stratus Reveals She Wrestled At WrestleMania Despite Nasty Injury.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/anyway-trish-stratus-reveals-wrestled-wrestlemania-despite-nasty-injury/>

Power Of Positivity: Big E. Provides Medical Update On One Year Anniversary Of His Broken Neck.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/power-positivity-big-e-provides-medical-update-one-year-anniversary-broken-neck/>

WRESTLING RUMORS: Update On Bray Wyatt's WWE Status (And It's

Not Good).

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/wrestling-rumors-update-bray-wyatts-ww-e-status-not-good/>

Even Longer: Injured 45 Year Old Former Champion Not Expected To Make WWE Return Soon.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/even-longer-injured-45-year-old-former-champion-not-expected-make-ww-e-return-soon/>

That's WHAT: Stone Cold Steve Austin Reveals Why He Did Not Wrestle At WrestleMania 39.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/thats-stone-cold-steve-austin-reveals-not-wrestle-wrestlemania-39/>

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## **Dynamite – April 19, 2023: Course Correction?**

### **Dynamite**

Date: April 19, 2023

Location: Petersen Events Center, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Commentators: Excalibur, Tony Schiavone, Taz

With just over five weeks to go before Double Or Nothing, the card is starting to take shape. It still needs a lot to be officially announced, but you can probably guess a lot of it from here. Maybe we get something set up tonight, as there are several matches that just need to be made official. Let's get

to it.

[Here are last week's results if you need a recap.](#)

Opening sequence.

Here is Jungle Boy to get things going but before he can get a word out, here is Sammy Guevara to interrupt. Before he can say anything either, here is Darby Allin to interrupt as well. Allin says Guevara is a follower and not a champion, because there is no Guevara Appreciation Society. Jungle Boy is talented, but he got his job because he was part of that California clique.

Jungle Boy says that Allin is only here because he couldn't make it as a skateboarder. As for Guevara, it would be hard to find new ways to describe how big of a scumbag he really is. While he respects what Guevara does and the risks he takes, Jungle Boy knows Guevara is a scumbag. Guevara brings up that he and Allin will do whatever it takes to make it. Seeing Allin work hard and achieve success gives Guevara a hope, like when Allin won the TNT Title. Then Guevara did it three times, and now it's time for Allin to sit back and watch him win the World Title.

Jungle Boy says he's winning the title but here is MJF to interrupt. After insulting the fans (for liking Britt Baker), MJF announces a Pillars Tournament for the #1 contendership. MJF draws a name out of a hat, which determines that Allin gets a bye to the finals, leaving Guevara to face Jungle Boy in a first round match tonight. I'd like to believe that the four way title match is still happening, but there is something to having this be one on one. The talking was hit and miss, but putting most people next to MJF isn't the most fair choice.

Britt Baker/Jamie Hayter vs. Outcasts

Believe it or not, Baker is in fact over like free beer in a

frat house in her hometown. Saraya is the outcast Outcast here and gets to be at ringside, where she gets into it with Baker's mom. The fight starts in the aisle until they head inside for the bell/a double clothesline from Hayter. Saraya grabs Hayter's leg but Hayter is fine enough to drive a diving Storm into the barricade. Baker's attempt at a Canadian Destroyer on the floor is broken up and we take a break.

Back with Hayter hitting an AA onto the knee, allowing the hot tag off to Baker for the house cleaning. The Lockjaw glove is loaded up but Baker goes with an Air Raid Crash to Storm instead. Everything breaks down and Hayter's sliding lariat gets two. Baker gets hit with the running hip attack in the corner and Storm Zero gets two. Back up and a Panama Sunrise gives Baker two on Soho, setting up Lockjaw for the win at 9:37.

**Rating:** B. That was all it needed to be as the fans got to go nuts for Baker's entrance and the Lockjaw gave Baker the win. This wasn't some classic but it was a fast paced opener that gave the fans a nice thrill. It also gives Baker some momentum, as Hayter has gotten a lot of the attention in recent appearances. Good stuff here, as the hometown fans are pleased.

Wardlow introduces Arn Anderson of all people to be his manager. Anderson is ready to get Wardlow's TNT Title back.

Here is the Elite to talk about the Blackpool Combat Club. Kenny Omega is more serious this week as he talks about what the Club has put he and his friends through. Right now, the Elite is out there to settle this with the Club and he wants them here. Bryan Danielson pops up on screen to say they're amateurs, allowing the rest of the Club to come in for the brawl.

With the Elite down, here is Danielson to say that the Club is a bunch of amateurs. Don Callis follows Danielson out with a

chair but he gets caught before he can swing, sending him running off. Danielson talks about the potential that Omega has, but since he won't do anything, it's time to fix the house. Danielson gets the screwdriver until Konosuke Takeshita is sent out by Callis for the save. The Elite gets back up to clear the ring as you can see Blood And Guts from here. Also, it's amazing how much easier Kenny Omega is to deal with when he's not acting like Kenny Omega.

### TNT Title: Wardlow vs. Powerhouse Hobbs

Wardlow, with Arn Anderson, is challenging and we get a clip of QT Marshall attacking Anderson two years ago (That is a NICE touch as it gives Anderson a reason to be here and how many people were going to remember that happening?). QT Marshall and Harley Cameron are here too as Hobbs grabs three straight belly to belly suplexes to start. They head outside with Hobbs being whipped hard into the corner and the brawl heads into the crowd. The Powerbomb Symphony is broken up though and we take a break.

Back with Hobbs putting him on the top but a superplex attempt is blocked. Wardlow scores with a Swanton and the slug it out. Wardlow runs him over with a clothesline and snaps off some German suplexes and the big wind up punch drops Hobbs again. Cameron and Anderson get on the apron, allowing Marshall to grab a QT Cutter. The spinebuster gives Hobbs two and Anderson's finger gun sets up the DDT to drop Marshall. A three movement Powerbomb Symphony gives Wardlow the title back at 9:34.

**Rating:** B-. This was another step in the rapid fire Wardlow rollercoaster and I'm not even sure why I should believe this is a big step forward for him. Wardlow and Anderson is a weird pairing but things are at least looking up for him. Now if this means the end of the QTV stuff, things are looking up for humanity in general.

Post match Christian Cage and Luchasaurus come out to stare down Wardlow. Can they please slow down and let the moment sink in for once?

MJF interrupts a Sammy Guevara interview and offers a guaranteed title shot at Double Or Nothing...if he'll just lay down. That's a no, but MJF throws in a blank check. Guevara fills in the amount and MJF reluctantly agrees, leaving Guevara to give him a hug (MJF isn't pleased).

### Kommander vs. Jay White

Juice Robinson is here with White. They shake hands to start and White takes him into the corner for a loud chop as we see Shawn Spears watching. Kommander is fine enough to hit a kick to the head and a very multiple springboard flip dive sends White outside. The rope walk has to be dropped as White gets back up and sends him face first into the apron as we take a break.

Back with White hammering away in the corner before dropping Kommander with a chop. Kommander fights back and hits the ropes, setting up a rather spinny rollup for two. A clothesline drops Kommander again but he kicks White off the top. After two failed attempts, Kommander finally manages his rope walk flip dive to drop White on the floor. A springboard phoenix splash gives Kommander two and he climbs on White's back for something like an abdominal stretch. White isn't having this and suplexes him down, setting up the Blade Runner (swinging Downward Spiral) for the pin at 10:44.

**Rating:** B-. This was a fun one as Kommander was trying to do all of his complicated flippy stuff but White kept cutting him off. While it makes all the sense for White to cut off Kommander's high flying, I kept getting the feeling of White cutting it off because he felt like it's nonsense. White ran him over in the end, which is how it should have been as he felt like a much more well rounded star as opposed to someone



who was trying to flip around as much as he could.

Shawn Spears is not impressed so he gets pulled inside for the brawl. Ricky Starks makes the save.

FTR is shown a clip of Mark Briscoe being jumped by the Varsity Athletes. Since they somehow have no idea that this happened despite them being set to team with Briscoe, they go to check on Briscoe, who has Jeff Jarrett and company with him. Briscoe is ready to fight but the trainer won't let him. Jay Lethal and Jeff Jarrett will do it instead.

Here are Chris Jericho and Adam Cole for a face to face chat. The fans love the latter so much that Jericho has to point it out. Cole talks about how much of an inspiration Jericho was, to the point where Jericho inspired his catchphrase. They do shake hands but Jericho says he has zero respect for Cole. He wants to slap Cole in the face but Cole says he and the fans think Jericho is a "jagoff".

Cole thinks the real Jericho is an insecure stupid idiot and gets in his face. Jericho says you never want to meet your idols and Cole doesn't want to meet him. There's the slap to Cole, triggering the brawl. Cue the Jericho Appreciation Society but Britt Baker runs in for the save and goes after Jericho. Cue the Outcasts (who just happened to be under the ring) to jump Baker and Jericho handcuffs Cole to the ropes. A kendo stick emerges and Cole has to watch Saraya get in some rather lame stick shots on Baker. It was a solid idea for a segment and Cole/Baker's selling more than made it, but Saraya's stick shots were pretty horrible.

Jeff Hardy will speak on Rampage.

### Jericho Appreciation Society vs. Acclaimed/Billy Gunn

The Society jump them before the bell and apparently if the Acclaimed and Gunn lose, they have to join the team until Double Or Nothing. The Acclaimed fights up and hits Scissor Me

Timbers on Parker as we take a break. Back with Bowens coming in to slug it out with Menard but Parker gets in a cheap shot with the loaded comb (egads) for two on Bowens. Gunn takes said comb away and breaks it, setting up the Arrival and Mic Drop for the pin at 6:21. This was your "stop putting half the match in the break" match of the week and while there wasn't enough shown to rate, PLEASE let the Acclaimed move on to ANYTHING else.

Here's what's coming on various shows.

### Four Pillars Tournament First Round: Sammy Guevara vs. Jungle Boy

Tay Melo comes out to the stage with Guevara but doesn't stay. Jungle Boy sends him outside for a dive to start but Guevara switches places with him for a dive of his own. Back in and Guevara hits a super Spanish Fly to leave both of them down as we're now a minute in. As Darby Allin watches from the rafters, they go to the apron for a standoff until Guevara knees him out of the air. Another Spanish Fly to the floor plants Jungle Boy on the floor and we take a break.

Back with Jungle Boy fighting out of trouble, including a hard clothesline. They head to the floor for an apron bomb from Jungle Boy, followed by a top rope Canadian Destroyer for two back inside. Guevara is back with a top rope cutter before flipping Jungle Boy into a DDT (ouch) for two. The GTH is countered into a poisonrana and the running forearm to the back of Guevara's head but Jungle Boy can't follow up.

The Snare Trap sends Guevara over to the ropes so Jungle Boy goes up. One heck of a running dropkick sends Jungle Boy HARD into the corner of the ringside table. Guevara breaks up the count at eight though and here is MJF to pull Jungle Boy out of the ring (behind the referee's back). A big shot with the diamond ring knocks Jungle Boy cold, allowing the referee to pick up his count at nine for the countout at 11:39.

**Rating:** B. This was a very modern style match with a bunch of flips and dives packed in. That doesn't exactly make for a great match but it does make for something fun. At the same time, MJF costing Jungle Boy the match makes sense for him as he fears Jungle Boy quite a bit, though I'm curious if that ending is going to give them an out to get all three challengers to Double Or Nothing.

MJF and Guevara celebrate as Darby Allin is not pleased to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** B. They did a lot here, though some of it was a little odd. I'm not entirely sold on the tournament for a title shot when they have seemingly been building towards a four way, but Jungle Boy losing via countout/cheating leaves a lot of doors open. Other than that, you had some good action and a title change, though this show felt like a bit of an adjustment on the way to Double Or Nothing rather than setting things up.

#### Results

Britt Baker/Jamie Hayter b. Outcasts – Lockjaw to Soho

Wardlow b. Powerhouse Hobbs – Powerbomb Symphony

Jay White b. Kommander – Bladerunner

Acclaimed/Billy Gunn b. Jericho Appreciation Society – Mic Drop to Parker

Sammy Guevara b. Jungle Boy via countout

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# **NXT – April 18, 2023: Get Ready For Breakin**

## **NXT**

Date: April 18, 2023

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Vic Joseph, Booker T.

Things got a little more interesting last week as Grayson Waller became the new #1 contender to the NXT Title and Bron Breakker seemed to target Chase U. Those are both new directions and I'm curious to see where they go from here. Other than that, the Women's Title situation could get more complicated so let's get to it.

[Here are last week's results if you need a recap.](#)

Opening recap...is broken up by a three way brawl between the Dyad, the Creeds and Gallus, who are scheduled to face off for the Tag Team Titles. That's a new one and I got a bit confused by what they were doing (in a good way).

Tag Team Titles: Gallus vs. Dyad vs. Creed Brothers

Gallus is defending, the rest of the groups are here too and it's a brawl to start with the Dyad taking over. That doesn't last long as Gallus is right back, only to have Julius snap off some suplex. Julius moonsaults onto Reid and manages a heck of a powerbomb but a string of shots to the face gives

Reid two. Mark sends Julius flying for two and we take a break.

Back with a three way knockdown and a triple tag bringing in Brutus, Fowler and Wolfgang, with Brutus getting to clean house. The Dyad breaks up a double team from Gallus and we get a Dyad vs. Creed showdown. Something like Aussie Open's Coriolis hits Brutus but Ava offers a distraction. Reid is knocked off the top into Ivy Nile as the Brutus Bomb hits Fowler. With that broken up, Gallus' running boot/flapjack combination retains the titles at 13:09.

**Rating:** B-. It was a hot start to the show and that is the right way to go. I liked the whole interrupting the normal video to start, just to add in some rarely used flavor. Other than that, the match was pretty much nonstop action and that is how you get a show going. Gallus is running through the division though and I'm not sure who is supposed to take the belts from them at the moment.

Dijak is mad about Ilja Dragunov and runs into Apollo Crews, setting up a match tonight.

Nathan Frazer has a new talk show segment called Hard Hitting Home Truths, where he talks about how talented the roster is around here. Frazer talks about how he is going to keep going fast to keep from getting down because unhappiness can't catch you. This was an odd choice but sure why not.

#### Myles Borne vs. Noam Dar

Dar's Heritage Cup isn't on the line. Dar kicks the leg out to start but Borne drives him into the corner to hammer away. Borne gets hung over the ropes and kicked in the face but he fights up with some dropkicks. Dar hits a spinning elbow to the face though and the Nova Roller (running kick to the face) finishes Borne at 2:45.

Roxanne Perez is ready to go through Zoey Stark tonight on her

way back to the Women's Title.

Kiana James isn't willing to help Josh Briggs after everything that has happened. Briggs still wants help talking to Brooks Jensen, who comes in, looking like he's auditioning for Pretty Deadly. He doesn't want to talk to Briggs because Jensen is a man instead of a boy. Jensen tells him to leave.

Odyssey Jones comes out for a match but gets jumped by Bron Breaker. After getting rid of Jones, Breaker talks about how he had to take out Chase U last week but here is Duke Hudson to say not so fast. Breaker isn't going to badmouth Chase U and get away with it so they can fight at Spring Breakin. Hudson cuts him off to say Breaker is going to face the beating heart of Chase U. Breaker promises to wreck all of Chase U.

Cora Jade gets cut off by Gigi Dolin, who thinks Jade is channeling her anger. A match is made for later.

Pretty Deadly is happy with attacking Tony D'Angelo and Stacks and an anything goes match seems likely for next week.

### Roxanne Perez vs. Zoey Stark

Stark works on the arm to start but Perez slips out and we have a standoff. Perez takes her into an armbar and cranks away, setting up a headlock for a change of pace. A headlock takeover out of the corner has Stark even more annoyed but she slips out and kicks Perez in the ribs. Back up and Perez is sent outside, where she cuts off a dive and drops Perez on the apron.

We take a break and come back with Perez being catapulted into the corner, setting up the cravate. Another catapult is countered into a middle rope Thesz press but Stark rolls through a high crossbody for two. Pop Rox is blocked and a half and half suplex drops Perez for two more. The Z360 is countered though and Pop Rox out of the corner gives Perez the

pin at 11:08.

**Rating:** C+. This is where Perez shines, as she fought from behind and came back to win in a nice match. Perez is small enough to be the plucky underdog and she pulled it off well here. On the other hand you have Stark, who is great as a villain to be slayed and it worked out for both of them as a result. Good match here, with Perez getting closer to her title rematch.

Post match here is Indi Hartwell to say she's a fighting champion so next week, Perez can have her title shot. Perez is of course game but here is Tiffany Stratton to be all annoyed. Stratton says another beatable opponent is getting a title shot but Perez brings up beating her in the Breakout Tournament. Hartwell is up for a triple threat.

Grayson Waller says he's here because the Johnny Gargano match was unsanctioned and didn't count. Now for the NXT Title!

Von Wagner convinces Mr. Stone to stick around because he's the son of a Beverly Brother and ready to go. Why does WWE insist on trying over and over with Wagner? Am I missing something?

Dani Palmer will be here soon.

### Cora Jade vs. Gigi Dolin

Cora works on a wristlock to start but gets kicked in the arm to cut her off. A running hip attack drops Dolin for two but she knees Jade in the face. Jade's running knee is cut off but here is Jacy Jayne for a distraction. Dolin isn't having that and sends Jayne into the steps, as well as Booker T., with the distraction letting Jade hit a DDT for the pin at 3:49.

**Rating:** C. This didn't have time to go anywhere and was more about Jayne vs. Dolin than anything else. The feud is likely continuing and I wouldn't be surprised to see a rematch in the

next week or two. Dolin feels like someone who NXT wants to push but won't pull the trigger on, though that might have been more due to Jayne's injury.

Post match Lyra Valkyria comes out to say she's facing Jade next week.

Eddy Thorpe is ready to succeed and overcome the Native American stereotypes. Damon Kemp comes in and doesn't seem impressed.

Fallon Henley and Josh Briggs aren't cool with Kiana James and Brooks Jensen, who come in to interrupt. Briggs wants to make amends but the challenge for a mixed tag is thrown out. Henley is absolutely in.

### Dijak vs. Apollo Crews

Dijak grabs a headlock to start as Booker says time is running out on Crews' chances. Crews' headlock goes on before he picks up the pace, setting up a nice dropkick. Dijak manages to send him to the apron though and a hard shot knocks Crews into the announcers' table as we take a break. Back with Crews hitting a top rope shot to the head but the discus boot gives Dijak two. Crews kicks him down but the standing moonsault is countered into Hard Justice for...two in a nice finish. Feast Your Eyes finishes Crews at 9:52.

**Rating:** B-. It's nice to see Dijak getting a nice win as he is starting to feel a bit more like his old self. Dijak felt like someone who should have been a bigger deal in the new NXT but hasn't quite hit that same level, or really even approached it. Maybe this is a nice step forward, but the lack of consistency gives me pause.

Post match Dijak goes after Crews again but Ilja Dragunov makes the save. The two have to be held apart.

Jacy Jayne can't stand Gigi Dolin and talks about how Dolin



left her seven year old brother to deal with their abusive mother.

### North American Title: Charlie Dempsey vs. Wes Lee

Dempsey, with Drew Gulak, is defending and Gulak gets in a cheap shot before the bell. Dempsey gets in a fast two and rolls Lee up for two more. Lee is fine enough to send him outside for the big flip dive and we take a break. Back with Dempsey working on an armbars but Lee gets up for the slugout.

A dropkick to the back of the head sends Dempsey into the corner but he comes out with a dragon screw legwhip. Dempsey's bridging German suplex gets two, only to have Lee kick his way out of trouble. After kicking Gulak off the apron, Lee hits the Cardiac Kick to retain at 8:35.

**Rating:** C+. The break didn't do this any favors but I can go with more of Dempsey getting to torture someone. That is something that works no matter what era of wrestling you're in and that was true again here. At the same time you have Lee, who is on the roll of a career at this point and we could be in for even more awesome title defenses going forward.

Tony D'Angelo and Stacks are ready for Pretty Deadly and they'll make it a trunk match.

Oba Femi is coming and can throw stuff, like furniture.

Here's what's coming next week, including Bron Breaker vs. Andre Chase instead of Duke Hudson.

It's time for the Grayson Waller Effect with Waller promising to win the NXT Title next week. That brings him to his guests: NXT Champion Carmelo Hayes, with Trick Williams. Waller talks about what a star he has been without a title, so imagine what he'll be with one. We get a viewer question asking what the "him" thing means for Hayes. Williams doesn't like it but Hayes says they keep chanting his name, so what does that tell

you?

Waller suggests that Hayes is nothing without Williams but Hayes isn't going to fall for it. They insult each other for how horrible they would be on the main roster until Waller promises to win the title. The staredown ends the show. This wasn't great, but it isn't meant to be some kind of major title showdown. Instead, it's about Hayes getting his first title defense out of the way and Waller is just dangerous enough to feel like a threat.

**Overall Rating:** B-. Another solid show from NXT and the best thing is that they have been building up towards the important show next week. Granted a lot of the card was built up in the span of one night, but at least they did get it together. Spring Breakin is not going to be the biggest card ever, but it is going to feel bigger than a regular show. For now though, they're coming in to the show on something of a roll so there is a lot of potential next week.

### Results

Gallus b. Dyad and Creed Brothers – Running boot/flapjack combination to Brutus

Noam Dar b. Myles Borne – Nova Roller

Roxanne Perez b. Zoey Stark – Pop Rox

Cora Jade b. Gigi Dolin – DDT

Wes Lee b. Charlie Dempsey – Cardiac Kick

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AND

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## Heading Out For A Bit

Hey everyone.

The family and I are heading to England for the next few weeks so things are going to be a bit off schedule. I'll have some downtime while I'm there so I'll be able to catch up on the shows, but I won't be able to do anything live. We fly out today and get back on May 4 so please bear with me for the time being. I'll be getting to all of the shows at some point, but the normal schedule is going to be out the window. I'm sorry for throwing everything off.

KB

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## Monday Night Raw – April 17, 2023: They're Actually Standing

### Monday Night Raw

Date: April 17, 2023

Location: Simmons Bank Arena, North Little Rock, Arkansas

Commentators: Kevin Patrick, Corey Graves

We are just a few weeks away from Backlash and you can probably guess the show's big matches from here. There is a good chance that at least one of them will be announced this week, as Brock Lesnar is scheduled to be here to address what he did to Cody Rhodes two weeks ago. Let's get to it.

[Here are last week's results if you need a recap.](#)

Here is the Bloodline for a chat. Jey Uso says the Bloodline is here and Paul Heyman explains his role as advisor to Roman Reigns (not here). Cue Judgment Day of all people to interrupt and we get a big staredown between the two sides. Apparently Reigns has put together a short term deal with the teams, which has the non Heyman Bloodline surprised.

Reigns didn't want anyone but Heyman and Solo (Heyman: "Because there are no sudden movements.") knowing and apparently Finn Balor isn't happy with the whole thing. Sikoa is going to help deal with the Bad Bunny situation...but Rhea Ripley switches places to stare at him. Heyman asks if everything is ok and Ripley says "for now". While Solo deals with the Bad Bunny problem, the Bloodline needs to deal with their Kevin Owens, Sami Zayn and Matt Riddle problems.

Since the Bloodline is facing those three at Backlash, the Judgment Day will take care of them tonight. As for right now, we have a Sikoa showdown. This was a nice creative way to go and it very well could be a one night change of pace, which is cool to see for a change. Solo having Reigns' trust but not so much with the Usos makes it all the more interesting.

Rey Mysterio vs. Solo Sikoa

Everyone else has left ringside. Mysterio jumps over Sikoa to start but gets taken down by straight power. Sikoa starts hammering away at his usual slow pace and Rey is in early trouble. We hit the nerve hold to keep Rey down, which only works so well as a headscissors sends both of them crashing down to the floor as we take a break.

Back with Rey caught in a neck crank before being sent into the corner. The running Umaga Attack misses and Rey scores with a basement dropkick. A springboard moonsault is countered into the Samoan drop for two though and Rey is right back with a frog splash for the same. Cue the Usos to break up the 619 though but here is the LWO to cut them off. After Sikoa breaks up a 619 attempt, a second version connects, only for Rey to miss a top rope splash. The Samoan Spike finishes Rey at 12:41.

**Rating:** C. This wasn't the most interesting match, as it was more about the Usos coming out for a distraction so Solo could hang in there. Sikoa continues to feel like a monster and that Spike is getting over as a big time move. Piling up one win after another is the best way to get Sikoa over and they did it again here. Rey is firmly at this point where he doesn't need to win very often to stay a star and the Wrestlemania win will carry him for a long time. Sikoa got something out of this, even if it was just an ok match.

Post match Solo and the Usos take out Mysterio and the LWO.

Earlier today, Chad Gable and Maxxine Durpi argue over Otis' future. A SHUSH off ensues so Adam Pearce throws them out.

We recap Iyo Sky earning a Women's Title match last week.

### Bianca Belair vs. Dakota Kai

Non-title and the rest of Damage Ctrl is here too. Belair can't quite get a slam to start but she manages to block a rollup out of the corner. A dropkick into a nipup sets up the standing moonsault for two on Kai. Belair is sent outside though and we take a break. Back with Belair hitting a running Blockbuster and some rolling suplexes.

The handspring moonsault gets two but a victory roll faceplant drops Belair for a change. Belair is back up and tries for the KOD but Kai grabs the hair. Another victory roll sends Belair

into the corner but the running knee in the corner misses. Now the KOD can finish Kai at 9:10.

**Rating:** C+. They kept things moving here and Kai got to show off what she is capable of doing. It also felt like a fresh match and that is a good thing in a division that Belair has dominated for over a year now. Belair beating the rest of Damage Ctrl before she faces Iyo Sky should work well enough and at least it is off to a good start.

We look back at Brock Lesnar taking out Cody Rhodes two weeks ago.

Video on Bronson Reed.

The Judgment Day is happy with what Solo Sikoa did, with Paul Heyman coming in to make sure they are satisfied. Now it is time for Judgment Day to get rid of the Bloodlines' problems. Rhea Ripley scares Heyman off, leaving him to call Roman Reigns.

Here is Cody Rhodes for a chat. He wants to talk about Brock Lesnar but Adam Pearce comes out and asks him not to do this. Rhodes teases leaving but grabs a chair and gets back in the ring. Security comes out to break it up but here is Brock Lesnar (in a cowboy hat and a trench coat) to interrupt.

Pearce begs Rhodes not to do it and makes Lesnar vs. Rhodes for Backlash to calm Rhodes down. Rhodes goes after security, who manages to get the chair away but they hold him back from a laughing Lesnar. That's enough for Lesnar, who walks away as Rhodes beats up the rest of security. Rhodes grabs the mic and calls Lesnar a coward.

### Seth Rollins vs. The Miz

Miz jumps Rollins during his entrance but Rollins says he can go. A clothesline takes Rollins down again but he's right back up with a clothesline. There's the suicide dive to Miz,

followed by the suicide dive and then the suicide dive, setting up a yell at the camera. Miz manages to shove him into the barricade though and we take a break.

Back with the fans singing for Rollins, who scores with a Sling Blade for two. There's a buckle bomb to rock Miz again but he gets the knees up to block a frog splash. The Figure Four goes on but Rollins slips out, setting up the hard forearm to the back of the head. Miz goes to the knee and hits a pair of DDTs for two. A super Skull Crushing Finale is blocked and Rollins hits a superplex into the Falcon Arrow, setting up the Stomp to finish Miz at 12:03.

**Rating:** B-. This wound up being a stronger than expected match with Miz getting in a lot of offense. Rollins was able to get the fans into things and it was a heck of a showdown, even if there was no major reason for them to be fighting. If nothing else, it was nice to see Rollins doing something other than conducting the fans without saying a word.

Sami Zayn, Kevin Owens and Matt Riddle strategize for backlash, with Owens not liking the concept of listening to Riddle's eyes. Sami says hear him out, with Riddle suggesting that he wrap up his toe and call it the Toe Bro. Owens: "WHAT?" Sami: "The toe bro..." Owens: "WHAT?" Riddle says that he was kidding and wants to take out the Bloodline for everything they have done to him. Now Owens seems happier, but he walks away without saying anything.

We look back at Trish Stratus turning on Becky Lynch after losing the Women's Tag Team Titles.

We look back at Bobby Lashley vs. Bronson Reed going to a no countout last week.

### Bobby Lashley vs. Austin Theory

Non-title and Lashley powers him down into a gator roll to start. The delayed vertical suplex drops Theory and there's a

running clothesline to the floor. Some running corner clotheslines don't do anything for Theory as Lashley knocks him to the floor. Lashley hits the big posting and we take a break.

Back with Theory biting Lashley's hand to escape a Hurt Lock and sending him into the post twice in a row. The chinlock goes on for a bit before Lashley gets up and avoids a charge into the post. Lashley runs him over but misses the spear. A Town Down is broken up as well and the spinning Dominator gives Lashley two. The threat of a spear sends Theory rolling to the floor but he gets caught in the Hut Lock back inside. Cue Bronson Reed to jump Lashley for the DQ at 12:09.

**Rating:** C+. They kind of telegraphed the Reed interference, but I'll absolutely take that over Theory losing a match clean. Reed vs. Lashley has the potential to be something good if they have a hard hitting brawl at Backlash, which very well may be in the cards. If nothing else, having Reed beat up Lashley a time or two could help him a lot.

Post match Reed beats Lashley up but Theory has to save Reed from the Hurt Lock. Reed doesn't quite like that but hits Lashley with the Samoan drop into the Tsunami.

Here is Trish Stratus and she has a lot of splainin to do. Stratus talks about what a joke women's wrestling used to be. People talk about how it was her and Lita but they're only half right. Stratus brought it credibility and single handedly started the Women's Revolution. People like Becky Lynch would have you believe that everything started with the Four Horsewomen.

Stratus couldn't believe it and came here to see for herself, and not once did Lynch ever say thank you. She had Lita as her sidekick but Stratus is no one's sidekick. It was so sad that Stratus had to take Lita out of the picture (Stratus: "Yeah I did that.") so she could screw Lynch out of her Tag Team



Titles. Then Lynch tried to give her the “we’ll get them next time”, so Stratus took her out. She is no nostalgia act and she is no one’s sidekick and she’ll make sure you forget it. This was a heck of a promo and it’s a story that makes perfect sense. Stick with this and they could stretch it out for a long time.

We recap the Cody Rhodes/Brock Lesnar situation from earlier in the night.

Rhodes isn’t really happy with what happened earlier and is ready to fight Lesnar at Backlash.

### Candice LeRae/Michin vs. Chelsea Green/Sonya Deville

Liv Morgan and Raquel Rodriguez are at ringside. Michin takes Green down into the corner to start and hands it off to Candice in a hurry. Candice slips out of a double suplex and backsplashes Deville for a breather. Cue Nikki Cross in the aisle though and the distraction lets Deville pull Candice off the top. Green misses an elbow though and it’s Michin coming in to clean house. Michin’s kicks set up a Code Blue for two but Deville’s rollup with feet on the ropes is caught by the referee. That’s fine with Green, who hits the Unprettier for the pin on Michin at 2:59.

The Street Profits, Elias, Rick Boogs, Baron Corbin and Akira Tozawa are worried/excited about the Draft.

The Usos are VERY ready about their six man tag at Backlash.

### Judgment Day vs. Sami Zayn/Matt Riddle/Kevin Owens

Balor headlocks Zayn to start but Zayn snaps off the armdrags to flabbergast him a bit. Priest and Owens come in with Owens taking him down and hitting a quick backsplash. A right hand drops Owens though and it’s back to Balor to go after Owens’ knee. Ripley turns Owens inside out with a clothesline and the front facelock goes on back inside.

Owens fights up and hits a superkick, allowing the hot tag to Riddle to clean house. A fisherman's buster drops Balor but the Floating Bro is countered into a chokeslam onto the apron as we take a break. Back with Riddle getting kicked in the head and a backbreaker getting two. Dominik comes in and gets German suplexed, allowing the tag back to Zayn.

A sunset bomb gets two on Dominik but Ripley crotches Zayn on top. Dominik hits the frog splash with Owens having to make the save. Everything breaks down but Ripley breaks up Zayn's bit flip dive. That's enough for an ejection and the Blue Thunder Bomb gets two on Dominik as the fans are actually standing. Owens' Swanton hits raised knees but it's a Stunner into a Helluva Kick into the Floating Bro for the pin at 12:54.

**Rating:** B. The fans were into this one and it made the match that much better. They went with the fast paced ending and it turned into a heck of a match by the end. When you actually have the fans on their feet for a six man tag to end Raw, something is going rather right and that's hard to do after a three hour show. Well done.

Post match the Bloodline runs in but the LWO and Rey Mysterio are here too for a huge brawl. A 619 hits Priest and the good guys stand tall to end the show. That was a hot ending and the fans were WAY into it so nice job.

**Overall Rating:** B. This was a different kind of show and I liked it more as a result. They didn't go in the same direction here and it made for a more interesting night. You can only do the same kind of show so often before you really need a break and having Judgment Day and the Bloodline swap feuds for a night was an intriguing concept. WWE shaking up the norm every so often is a very good thing and it worked well here, especially with that main event.

Results

Solo Sikoa b. Rey Mysterio – Samoan Spike  
Bianca Belair b. Dakota Kai – KOD  
Seth Rollins b. The Miz – Stomp  
Bobby Lashley b. Austin Theory via DQ when Bronson Reed interfered  
Chelsea Green/Sonya Deville b. Candice LeRae/Michin – Unprettier to Michin  
Sami Zayn/Kevin Owens/Matt Riddle b. Judgment Day – Floating Bro to Balor

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# Rebellion 2023: They Did What They Could

## Rebellion 2023

Date: April 16, 2023

Location: Rebel Sports Complex, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Commentators: Matthew Rehwoldt, Tom Hannifan

It's back to regular pay per view around here and that should make for a good show. The injury bug has struck Impact hard though as a new World and Knockouts Champion have to be crowned tonight. Other than that we have a Hardcore War, because we just needed more Tommy Dreamer vs. Bully Ray. Let's get to it.

Pre-Show: Heath/Rhino vs. Champagne Singh/Shera

Singh offers Heath money to throw the match but Heath throws the money instead. Heath works on the arm to take over before it's off to Rhino vs. Shera. Rhino gets taken into the corner and Shera hammers away, setting up some choking on the ropes. Rhino gets in a clothesline but Shera is back up to knock Heath into the barricade. The belly to belly gets Rhino out of trouble for good though as the tag brings Heath in to clean house. Everything breaks down and Singh rolls Heath up, with Shera holding the feet for the pin at 6:08.

**Rating:** C. Very basic match to open things up here and that's all it needed to be. They kept things moving and while I'm not sure about the logic of having Shera and Singh win, well anything really, it wasn't long enough to get bad and the fans are going to cheer for Rhino and Heath. Just don't expect me to care about Singh and we'll be fine.

Post match Rhino Gores Singh.

Pre-Show: Knockouts Tag Team Titles: The Coven vs. Death Dollz

The Dollz are challenging and it's Rosemary and Wilde both tagging out to start. It's way too early for the Sick Driver so Jessicka clotheslines her to the floor instead. Back in and King is sent into the corner for a running splash from Rosemary. King manages to get over for the tag to Wilde, who quickly takes over on Rosemary. A running shoulder in the corner connects and Wilde runs her over again for a bonus.

Rosemary slugs at Wilde, who gets caught with a Codebreaker to cut her right back off. An exploder to Wilde gets Rosemary out of trouble though and there's the double tag so Jessicka can clean house. Everything breaks down and it's quickly back to Rosemary, who gets to bite King. The spear gives Rosemary two but Wilde makes a blind tag. Rosemary hits a second spear for no count, as instead she walks into a swinging fisherman's neckbreaker to give Wilde the pin to retain at 9:39.

**Rating:** C. Slightly longer match than the opener here but it didn't make that much of a difference. The Knockouts Tag Team Titles are certainly better than either Women's Tag Team Title in WWE but that isn't the biggest hurdle to clear. The division needs some more teams, but the Coven still feels fresh enough to make them last for a while to come.

The opening video focuses on the World and Knockouts Titles being vacated and how we need new champions.

#### Tag Team Titles: Motor City Machine Guns vs. Bullet Club

The Club is defending in Ultimate X. It's a brawl to start with Sabin getting knocked down but Shelley back off, allowing Sabin to try for the belts. With that not working, the Guns are sent outside for stereo dives from the Club. Back in and the Guns take over on, with Austin's arm getting banged up.

Austin and Sabin climb up at the same time with the bad arm being rammed into the structure. Sabin ties up both of the Guns and Shelley goes up but gets pulled back down fast. Bey's knee is banged up but he's fine enough to grab a quick DDT and give everyone a much needed breather.

With everyone else on the floor, Austin busts out the big flip dive to take out both Guns. Back in and everyone gets knocked down again before all four go up for a climb at once. They all come crashing down and it's the Art of Finesse to drop Shelley, allowing Bey to pull down the titles and retain at 13:07.

**Rating:** B. Hot opener as expected but there wasn't much in the way of climbing, which made it kind of a regular match until the ending. The good thing is the people involved are able to do just about anything and make it work so this went well. I did like the lack of climbing and insanity though, as it was more about the people rather than the big crashes and spots. You don't get that kind of thing in a match like this very often and it was nice for a change.

Commentary runs down the card as the audio quality goes down.

Steve Maclin is upset over the situation because he wanted to win the title from Josh Alexander. He spent years in a war zone and now he is ready to tag em and bag em. Oh and beat Kushida.

We recap Callihan trying to join the Design in maybe the dumbest story going in wrestling today.

#### Design/Callihan vs. Dirty Dango/Santino Marella/Joe Hendry

Before the match, Hendry mocks Callihan and the Design because the fans believe in him. He introduces Santino and...I still have no idea why this is supposed to be interesting. Is he really that kind of Canadian hero? Dango suplexes Angels to start and brings in Santino to wrestle Angels down. The threat of the Cobra sends Angels into the corner for the tag off to Callihan.

Santino gets taken into the corner corner so the beating can begin. A quick escape allows the tag off to Hendry though and Kon is pulled out of the air. Deaner gets suplexed and the tag brings Dango in to take over on Callihan. The Dirtbag Shuffle hits Callihan but a Kon distraction lets the villains get in a cheap shot. Dango gets beaten down in the corner but he manages to knock Angels down, allowing the hot tag off to Santino.

Everything breaks down and Hendry hits a double fall away

slam, only to get caught with the Cactus Special 97. Deaner's discus lariat hits Santino but he wants Callihan to finish him off. Callihan is handed the baseball bat...and he hits Deaner with it (thank goodness). Callihan gives him the thumbs down and walks out, leaving Santino to hit the Cobra for the pin on Deaner at 10:40.

**Rating:** C+. Pretty basic six man with the focus being on Santino and Callihan. That isn't the most thrilling match but the fans being into it helped things a lot. At the very least, we're done with the idiotic Seven Deadly Whatever's for Callihan, meaning we can finally move on to ANYTHING else. Not a great match but the fans liked it enough so it could have been a lot worse.

Tommy Dreamer is sad about his mother's health but wants to be here anyway to fight in her honor. Dreamer is leaving a bit after tonight, but he's ready to fight with the people he loves.

We recap PCO vs. Eddie Edwards. Eddie turned on PCO during the Honor No More days, sending PCO into a quest for revenge. For some reason Eddie has tried to bury PCO multiple times, which has been as bad of an idea as it has sounded. Now PCO wants to end Eddie for good in a Last Rites match.

### Eddie Edwards vs. PCO

Last Rites (casket) match with Alisha Edwards in Eddie's corner. PCO wastes no time in diving onto Edwards and the fight is on outside. Edwards gets in a shot though and hits his own dive to take over. They get inside for the first time, where PCO hits a running corner clothesline and a DDT.

The middle rope legdrop hits Edwards again and the Deanimator makes it worse. Back in and a chokesove sends Edwards right back to the floor but it's too early for the casket. Edwards gets in a shot to the arm and yep that's dislocated. A German suplex and superkick don't make things better for PCO so he

goes outside...and slams the shoulder into the post to pop it back in.

They chop it out (with PCO opening his vest to make it easier) and Edwards is in trouble again. The PCOsault connects and Edwards gets chokeslammed onto the apron for another painful crash. Edwards gets in a shot of his own and smashes a kendo stick over PCO's head. The Boston Knee Party connects but PCO pops back up. Cue Alisha with a shovel to the back for no avail, leaving PCO to chokeslam Eddie into the casket for the win at 13:46.

**Rating:** B-. PCO is not an overly complicated idea and sometimes that is what you need. In his case, you have a monster who is going to hurt people and is nearly unstoppable, which is exactly what you had here. I'm not sure what is next for PCO, but Edwards needs to go away for the time being while PCO moves off to something else. Good brawl here though, with PCO's monster offense being great.

Trey Miguel's promo...cannot be heard as there is no sound.

We recap Trey Miguel defending the X-Division Title against Mike Bailey and Jonathan Gresham. In short, two challengers, stupid champion, interference, triple threat results.

X-Division Title: Jonathan Gresham vs. Mike Bailey vs. Trey Miguel

Miguel is defending in an elimination match. They go with some three way grappling to start and that's good for a three way standoff. Gresham and Bailey double hiptoss Miguel for a double two before Miguel is smart enough to bail to the ramp. The other two get to fight a bit until Miguel comes back in with an enziguri to Gresham.

Bailey is back up with a missile dropkick to Gresham and the standing shooting star gets two on Miguel. Bailey Indian Deathlocks Gresham and suplexes Miguel at the same time to



crank on the leg even harder. Miguel gets dropped again and the challengers get to slug it out. Bailey poisonransas Gresham and crashes outside with Miguel in a big heap. Gresham dives onto Miguel but Bailey dives onto both of them to take over again.

Miguel cutters Bailey down and hits a big running version over the top for two on Gresham inside. Gresham is fine enough to Figure Four Bailey (that won't work) but Miguel breaks it up with a top rope Meteora to eliminate Gresham at 9:45. Miguel figures Bailey's four and they chop it out with the hold still on.

Bailey finally breaks out and wins a chop off until he kicks Miguel in the face. A standing flipping slam gives Bailey two and there's the tornado kick. The Ultimate Weapon misses so Bailey sends him outside for the standing moonsault knees. Back in and the Ultimate Weapon only hits mat, allowing Miguel to roll him up with trunks to retain at 13:53.

**Rating:** B. Good, fast paced match here which shouldn't be a surprise, much like holding Bailey in a pair of Figure Fours for two minutes straight making him do more flips and kicks. That is just something you know is coming from Bailey but at least now we get to move on to more of Miguel as champion. His time as champion is getting to be impressive as he is getting into the all time ranks and that can make for some very fun times.

We recap Team Bully vs. Team Dreamer. This is all about Bully Ray vs. Tommy Dreamer, which has been going on for about six months now. Ray pretended to be good, Dreamer wasn't sure, Ray revealed he was evil, it's time for a big fight with friends because they used to be around each other in ECW.

#### Team Bully vs. Team Dreamer

Bully Ray, Moose, Brian Myers, Masha Slamovich, Kenny King  
Tommy Dreamer, Killer Kelly, Yuya Uemura, Frankie Kazarian,

Bhupinder Gujjar

It's basically WarGames without the cage, with the first two entrants in for three minutes. Then Team Bully (thanks to winning a match on Impact) gets an advantage for ninety seconds. All ten have to get in and then it's first pin or submission, anything goes. Moose starts for Team Bully and Frankie Kazarian starts for Team Dreamer.

Kazarian starts fast by throwing a trashcan at Moose's head and we're ready to go. Moose fires back with a chop and they head outside, where Kazarian sets up a table. We'll save that for later though as they head back inside, with Kazarian sending him into the corner. Brian Myers is in to give Ray the advantage and he sets up another table next to the first.

Bhupinder Gujjar evens things up and goes after Myers to give Kazarian a breather. The cheese grater to the head has Myers busted open (good thing he is in a white shirt) and Moose gets trashcan lidded down. Kenny King is in to uneven things again and house is quickly cleaned. Moose hits Gujjar in the head with a bottle of water and Killer Kelly makes it 3-3. That means a staple gun to Myers' head and another shot between Moose's legs. Then Kelly staples her own head and it's Masha Slamovich in to give the villains control again.

Everyone else is knocked down and it's Myers alone to face Yuya Uemura as things are evened up. The good guys clear the ring again and it's Bully Ray to complete his own team. Ray is smart enough to take his time so the rest of his team can get back up and jump Team Dreamer. Kelly is held down but it's Dreamer to even things up with the kendo stick. Dreamer goes after the leg...and everyone else gets involved for a ten person chain submission for quite the visual.

Kelly and Slamovich have a chair duel until Ray shoves Kelly off the top. Moose spears Ray by mistake and Uemura hits Moose with a high crossbody. The Killer Klutch has King in trouble

but Slamovich breaks it up and Snow Plows Kelly. Dreamer piledrives Slamovich but here are the Good Hands to jump him.

Kazarian breaks that up and let's bring in a ladder. The Good Hands come back in to go after Kelly, who beats them up like the goons they are. Kazarian cutters Skyler through the tables at ringside but Ray low blows Dreamer inside. Another table is set up...and here are a bunch of referees to beat Ray up for revenge from the last few weeks. Dreamer drops Ray and, with the referees holding the ladder, goes up to splash Ray through said table for the win at 25:07.

**Rating:** C. What is there to say here? You have a bunch of other people there to keep everyone else warm for the sake of Ray vs. Dreamer. This is a feud that has been going on for months for reasons I still don't quite get, but hopefully this should wrap it up. The hardcore stuff was kind of there but it was all basic stuff with only a few spots of note. It was fine enough and far better than Ray vs. Dreamer on their own, but it has been a story that wasn't interesting for months and wasn't much better here in the blowoff.

We recap the World title match. Josh Alexander had to vacate the title after about a year long reign, setting up #1 contender Steve Maclin vs. Kushida, the best remaining option. There isn't much heat on the match, but it is a case where they didn't have another choice and are doing the best they can.

### Impact Wrestling World Title: Kushida vs. Steve Maclin

For the vacant title and former World Champion Nick Aldis is here as a surprise guest commentator. Aldis says he is officially back in Impact, which is better than nothing for him. Kushida goes right at him to start fast but it's way too early for the Hoverboard Lock. Back up and Kushida rides him into a headlock without much trouble as Maclin can't get anything going here.

Kushida can't hit the basement dropkick so he takes it over into a wristlock instead. The Hoverboard Lock is blocked again and this time Maclin sends him throat first into the top rope to take over. A backbreaker gives Maclin two and Kushida's back is sent into the post. They head outside with Maclin grabbing a suplex and dropping an elbow off the apron, though he might have banged up his knee in the process.

We hit the chinlock with a knee in Kushida's back as Maclin certainly has a target. An Angle Slam is blocked though and Kushida hits a running kick to the arm. A discus forearm sets up the small package driver to give Kushida two but Maclin is fine enough to crotch him on top. They go to the ramp where Kushida hits a running shot to the arm but said arm is fine enough for a German suplex back inside.

A buckle bomb into a sitout powerbomb gives Maclin two and he puts Kushida on top. That is hardly the best idea as Kushida pulls him down into a cross armbreaker. Maclin gets over to the rope for the break and they crash out to the floor again. Back in and Maclin's spear in the corner sets up the KIA for two, leaving Maclin frustrated.

Maclin goes up top but dives into the Hoverboard Lock, only to break it up with some forearms to the head. Another Hoverboard Lock goes on but Maclin reverses into a Death Valley Driver into the corner. Kushida gets the Hoverboard Lock AGAIN, only to have Maclin reverse into another KIA for the pin and the title at 18:27.

**Rating:** B. That was about the only way they could go as Kushida was a filler opponent for Maclin. That isn't something they could really get around given the circumstances and it wound up being a rather good match anyway. Maclin has been built up to be champion for months now and it was the only conclusion they had here. Kushida going for the arm time after time but having Maclin escape it at every turn worked well. They were limited in what they could do and made it work as

well as possible.

Post match Maclin insists that Scott D'Amore come out and hand him the title. D'Amore does so and gets hit in the face with the belt. Nick Aldis gets in and glares Maclin off. Aldis works just fine for a first challenger, as Maclin has already run through a lot of the other options.

Here are some upcoming major events. Multiverse United 2 is on August 20.

We recap the Knockouts Title match. Again the champion, Mickie James in this case, was forced to vacate the title due to injury so we have the #1 contender and a former champion fighting for the title.

#### Knockouts Title: Deonna Purrazzo vs. Jordynne Grace

For the vacant title. They shake hands to start and Grace grinds away on a headlock. Purrazzo cranks away on the arm and has Grace in some early pain. Some armdrags into a running hurricanrana has Grace in more trouble but she sends Purrazzo outside. That means a dropkick through the ropes and a Jackhammer on the floor as Purrazzo is rocked.

A rather stalled suplex gives Grace a slightly delayed two but she has to roll out of a Fujiwara armbar. The Queen's Gambit on the ramp is broken up so Purrazzo settles for a moonsault to the floor instead. Back in and the Queen's Gambit is broken up again but Purrazzo is able to grab a Koji Clutch.

Grace powers out and drops her hard with a Vertebreaker for all things for two. The Grace Driver is blocked and she pulls Purrazzo into a rear naked choke. They trade some strikes but Purrazzo pulls her into the Fujiwara armbar. Make that the Venus De Milo but a foot on the rope is good for the break. Back up and Grace's spinebuster gets two, followed by a Grace Driver for the same (as Rehwoldt is getting into these near falls). Purrazzo counters a superplex into a sunset bomb,

setting up the Queen's Gambit for the pin and the title at 17:06.

**Rating:** B. This is an interesting way to go as I would have expected Grace to win but Purrazzo is a completely acceptable choice as well. Grace had held the title for a long time until James took it off of her but it has been a bit since Purrazzo. They could go quite an interesting direction with Purrazzo fighting off some challengers and hurting some arms, so this was certainly a smart idea. It was a good match as well, similar to Kushida vs. Maclin actually, but with the submission holds having more success until Purrazzo managed to pull it off.

They hug to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** B. They were in a rough place here as the two biggest matches had stories thrown together over the last two weeks. That left the main story of Bully Ray vs. Tommy Dreamer with four friends each. Given what they had, they had put on a rather strong show, which has been the case for their bigger events in recent memory. Good show here, and worth some extra praise all things considered.

### Results

Champagne Singh/Shera b. Heath/Rhino – Rollup to Heath

The Coven b. Death Dollz – Swinging fisherman's neckbreaker to Rosemary

Bullet Club b. Motor City Machine Guns – Bey pulled down the titles

Santino Marella/Dirty Dango/Joe Hendry b. The Design/Callihan – Cobra to Deaner

PCO b. Eddie Edwards – Chokeslam into the casket

Trey Miguel b. Jonathan Gresham and Mike Bailey – Rollup with trunks to Bailey

Team Dreamer b. Team Bully – Splash through a table to Ray

Steve Maclin b. Kushida – KIA

Deonna Purrazzo b. Jordynne Grace – Queen's Gambit

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# Monday Night Raw – April 21, 2008 (2023 Redo, King Of The Ring 2008): Dang That's A Lot

## Monday Night Raw

Date: April 21, 2008

Location: BiLo Center, Greenville, South Carolina

Commentators: Jim Ross, Jerry Lawler

It's a special three hour show as the King Of The Ring is back. The tournament was announced last week and now we get the whole thing wrapped up in one night. Other than that, it is the go home show for Backlash and that means it is time for the final push towards the four way match for the Raw World Title. Let's get to it.

[Here are last week's results if you need a recap.](#)

Opening sequence.

### King Of The Ring First Round: Chris Jericho vs. MVP

Non-title. MVP slugs away to start but Jericho drapes him ribs first onto the top. Jericho takes it to the floor but MVP hits something like a hanging Nightmare On Helm Street back inside. Something close to a seated abdominal stretch has Jericho in trouble but he's right back up and hits a running shoulder. A big boot gives MVP two, only to get taken down with a clothesline as the back and forth continues. The Playmaker is broken up though and Jericho gets the Walls for the clean tap.

**Rating:** C. It was intense while it lasted but they had no other way out besides having the US Champion tap out? Losing to Jericho isn't some huge upset but MVP already has a title match on Sunday so why have him lose here? I've never gotten the thinking behind this, though it doesn't do the loser's title any favors.

### King Of The Ring First Round: CM Punk vs. Matt Hardy

They trade forearms to start and Punk blocks the Side Effect with some elbows to the head. Punk knocks him down into a chinlock before putting him on top. What looked to be a superplex is broken up and a middle rope elbow to the back of the head rocks Punk for a change. Back up and Punk's running knee and bulldog get two so Punk loads up the GTS. Hardy reverses into a sunset flip attempt but Punk sits down on it for the pin to advance.

**Rating:** C+. This was another fast and to the point match, though they kept things going so quickly that it was entertaining. At the same time, the US Title match at Backlash has taken quite the hit in the first twenty five minutes of the show. This one isn't as bad as the champ losing, but the title match doesn't have quite the shine anymore.

Here's what Barack Obama vs. Hilary Clinton looks like in



Smackdown vs. Raw 2008.

We look back at JBL/HHH/Randy Orton attacking each other last week.

The Raw World Title match is now a four way elimination match.

JBL says tonight is about crowning the King Of The Ring but he will be crowned champion on Sunday. There is even an article about him on the front page of the New York Times!

### King Of The Ring First Round: Finlay vs. Great Khali

Hornswoggle is here with Finlay. Some shots to the knee manage to put Finlay down to start but Khali chokes him from the mat. A big boot drops Finlay so Hornswoggle tries to bring in the shillelagh. With that broken up, Khali wraps Finlay's leg around the post and that's a fast DQ.

Post match here is Big Show for the showdown with Khali. That's enough to send Khali bailing to wait for Sunday. With Finlay being helped to the back, here is William Regal for the final first round match.

### King Of The Ring First Round: Hornswoggle vs. William Regal

Regal Stretch finishes Hornswoggle in about 20 seconds.

Video on the European tour.

Here is Shawn Michaels for a chat. Shawn didn't think he would be out here dealing with one of Ric Flair's best friends in Batista. He needs to ask Batista something here though, so come on down. Cue Batista, with Shawn bringing up what Chris Jericho said on Smackdown: did Batista want to be the one to retire Flair? Batista asks if it would be easier if the answer was yes. Either way, Batista is ending this at Backlash, but Shawn promises to show Batista why he is the Heartbreak Kid. Shawn is willing to do anything to win, so be ready. Violence is teased but they leave.

In light of the Pennsylvania Presidential Primary, Hilary Clinton joins us and says the election is starting to sound like King of the Ring. This time though, the Last Woman Standing may be a woman. Whoever wins will have a lot of challenges to overcome but she will stay in the political arena and won't come after Randy Orton. She might drop the People's Elbow though. This was an eye roll inducing as you could have imagined but points for actually showing up.

### Hardcore Holly vs. Carlito

Cody Rhodes and Santino Marella are here too. Holly starts fast and hammers him into the corner. An atomic drop hits Carlito but he knees Holly in the ribs and takes over. We hit the chinlock with a knee in the back before an elbow to the face cuts off Holly's comeback. The Alabama Slam is countered into the Backstabber to give Carlito the pin.

**Rating:** C-. This was as interesting as a Carlito vs. Hardcore Holly match to set up Carlito/Santino Marella vs. Holly/Cody Rhodes Tag Team Title match was going to be. This feud is pretty horrible, but it isn't like the titles have felt important in a good while. Just find some better teams. It really shouldn't be that hard.

Post match Santino promises to win the Tag Team Titles but Cody clears the ring.

HHH promises to win the title at Backlash.

### King Of The Ring Semifinals: CM Punk vs. Chris Jericho

Non-title. Jericho grabs a headlock takeover and gets absolutely nowhere. Back up and Punk starts kicking away at the leg but gets dropped ribs first across the top rope. Jericho stays on the ribs until a hammerlock lariat gives Punk two. They go to a pinfall reversal sequence and Punk's snap powerslam gets two more. The Walls have Punk right back down, sending him over to the rope for the break. Jericho goes up

but gets kicked in the head, setting up the GTS for the clean pin.

**Rating:** C+. It was fun while it lasted but they got out of there really fast. Maybe their time was cut short, but the Intercontinental Champion losing in about six and a half minutes completely clean is a strange thing to see. That being said, Punk is getting a push here and points for trying to make someone new.

Senator Barack Obama says it's a chance to change business as usual and get rid of people trying to become King (of the ring). Do you smell what Barack is cooking? He certainly has charisma.

### King Of The Ring Semifinals: William Regal vs. Finlay

This should be fun and Finlay is very banged up coming in. Finlay sends him outside but his band knee is sent into the steps. Back in and Regal goes after the knee like a true villain (or smart wrestler) should. Finlay forearms away and a backslide (which falls apart on the way down) gets two. Regal's running knee knocks Finlay silly though and the Regal Stretch knocks Finlay out to send Regal to the finals.

**Rating:** C. Another short match here, which continues the issue of a one night tournament needing to be rushed, even if there is an extra hour. Regal and Finlay could have a heck of a fight if given the chance, but three and a half minutes with Finlay being banged up coming in isn't going to allow that. Instead we got Regal being a villain who exploited an injury, which might just be a bit better.

Senator John McCain uses a bunch of wrestling catchphrases and promises to introduce Osama Bin Laden to the Undertaker and tells us to vote. All three of these were pretty bad, but they did take the time to appear.

Backlash rundown.

John Cena is tired of talking and wants to fight. He talks about how he knows he has a chance on Sunday and the other three have to go through him.

WWE has helped with a literacy program. Nothing wrong with that.

### Barack Obama vs. Hilary Clinton

Let's get this over with as I'm sure Vince McMahon finds this hilarious. Clinton comes out to Real American and has a Bill Clinton impersonator. Before the match, Hilary cuts a promo for the Hilamaniacs and there is an eerie silence as she stops to bicker with Bill. Fans: "MONICA! MONICA!"

Obama, with big fake ears, comes out to Rock's theme. His Rock impression isn't well received but Bill cuts him off. Hilary jumps him to start and gets two off a slam into a legdrop. The Rock Bottom connects (Bill: "Honey are you go???) but Bill breaks up the People's Elbow (Bill: "I did not have inappropriate conduct."). Umaga finally comes in and the match is thrown out.

Umaga wrecks both of them, ending one of the dumbest segments that probably had a certain someone howling backstage.

Here are a bunch of the more popular Divas for a chat. Last week, Mickie James won the Women's Title from Beth Phoenix, which they never thought possible. Mickie is brought out for a chat, plus a lot of hugging. Cue the evil Divas, with Beth Phoenix promising to get the title back. McCool slaps Beth and the big brawl is on.

Mr. Kennedy is back next week. He was gone?

### King Of The Ring: William Regal vs. CM Punk

Regal takes him into the corner to start and hammers away but Punk sends him into the buckle. A belly to back suplex drops Punk for two and Regal cranks on both arms. Punk finally slips

out and kicks him in the head. It's too early for the GTS though as Regal grabs the rope and knees him in the head. The Regal Stretch makes Punk tap and Regal is King.

B: C. So that's the tournament, with the longest match not even breaking seven minutes. This was another match that just came and went because there wasn't time to do much. Punk's ribs were tied throughout the matches he wasn't even in the ring for fifteen minutes throughout the night. I like Regal winning though, as he is great when given a chance to showcase everything he can do. Just do better with the tournament next time, or stretch it out to a second week.

Post match Regal sits on the throne and we're off to a break rather quickly.

Here is Randy Orton for the main event, but first he says he is tired of everyone talking about taking his title. He has nothing to say except for listing off the shows where he retained.

Randy Orton/John Bradshaw Layfield/Chavo Guerrero/Edge vs. HHH/Kane/Undertaker/John Cena

That's a pretty outstanding group of good guys. Edge tries to jump Undertaker to start and gets caught with a quick Old School. We take a break and come back with Edge charging into HHH's spinebuster, allowing the diving tag to Cena. The Shuffle is broken up thanks to a Chavo low bridge though and it's Orton coming in to kick him in the ribs.

JBL gets two off a neckbreaker as the villains start taking turns on Cena. Orton grabs the chinlock with a bodyscissors until Cena powers up for a ram into the corner. The tag brings in Kane and everything breaks down. Kane chokeslams Chavo but Edge comes in off a blind tag and hits a spear for the pin.

**Rating:** C+. This felt like a house show match where you get your big names in the ring to end the show. It worked for what

it was, in that it previewed multiple pay per view title matches at once, though there was no reason to believe it was going to be anything great. Kane taking the fall when Chavo is there is a bit weird, but maybe they feel they have beaten him into the ground enough.

Post match we hit the parade of finishers, with Undertaker chokeslamming Orton and JBL to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** C+. This was a strange show in that they tried to pack in a lot and it was too overcrowded. Between the tournament, the political stuff and the build towards the pay per view, this felt like it needed to be about four hours, or two regular weeks, to make it work. What we got did work and they covered a lot, but it felt like it could have been that much better rather than just doing ok with everything. Cut some of this stuff out and let the show breathe a bit more and it's that much better. Or just get rid of the Obama vs. Hilary match because that was an audience of one deal if I've ever seen one.

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[Memphis Wrestling – November 25, 2006](#)

[City Championship Wrestling Episode 88](#)

[Ring Of Honor TV – April 13, 2023](#)

[Impact Wrestling – April 13, 2023](#)

[Smackdown – April 14, 2023](#)

[Rampage – April 14, 2023](#)

[Monday Night Raw – August 30, 1999](#)

[NXT LVL Up – April 14, 2023](#)

[WCCW TV – April 30, 1983](#)

[WCCW TV – February 6, 1988](#)

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Clarification: Update On Kenny Omega's AEW Contract Status.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/clarification-update-kenny-omegas-aew-contract-status/>

WRESTLING RUMORS: Possible Plans For Rhea Ripley At WWE Backlash.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/wrestling-rumors-possible-plans-rhea-ripley-wwe-backlash/>

WRESTLING RUMORS: Seth Rollins Reportedly Walked Out Of Monday Night Raw After WrestleMania.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/wrestling-rumors-seth-rollins-unhappy-recent-monday-night-raw-segment-walked/>

Not So Fast: WWE Announces Name Change For Upcoming Major Event.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/not-fast-wwe-announces-name-change-upcoming-major-event/>

WATCH: Eddie Kingston Reveals Serious Injury, May Need Surgery.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/watch-eddie-kingston-reveals-serious-injury-may-need-surgery/>

WATCH: WWE Star Reveals She Wants To Have A Baby In 2023.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/watch-wwe-star-wants-baby-2023/>

He's Worthy: Impact Wrestling Star Wants To Be Inducted Into WWE Hall Of Fame Next Year In Philadelphia.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/hes-worthy-former-wwe-stars-wants-inducted-hall-fame-next-year-philadelphia/>

Split? AEW Reportedly Considering Brand Split With New Saturday Show.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/split-aew-reportedly-considering-brand-split-new-saturday-show/>

After All This Time: Long Awaited Grudge Match Expected For AEW Double Or Nothing.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/time-long-awaited-grudge-match-expected-aew-double-nothing/>



In Writing: Important Details On AEW Re-Signing Current Champion.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/writing-important-details-aew-re-signing-current-champion/>

OUCH: Don Callis' Injuries On AEW Dynamite Are Much Worse Than They Seemed.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/ouch-don-callis-injuries-aew-dynamite-much-worse-seemed/>

The Important Parts: WWE Announces New Details On The Draft.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/important-parts-wwe-announces-new-details-draft/>

Good Reason: WWE Legend Reveals Why He Did Not Appear At WrestleMania 39.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/good-reason-wwe-legend-reveals-not-appear-wrestlemania-39/>

WRESTLING RUMORS: Surprising Name Discussed As Possible Money In The Bank Winner.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/wrestling-rumors-surprising-name-discussed-possible-money-bank-winner/>

He's Around: How Vince McMahon's Influence Was Present On WWE SmackDown.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/hes-around-vince-mcmahons-influence-present-wwe-smackdown/>

WRESTLING RUMORS: WWE Considers Heel Turns For SmackDown Stars.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/wrestling-rumors-wwe-considers-heel-turns-smackdown-stars/>

Banged Up: AEW Star Out Of Action Due To Injuries, No Word On Return.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/banged-aew-star-action-due-injuries-no-word-return/>

That's Not Good: New Detail On Drew McIntyre And WWE's Future (And It's Not Positive).

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/thats-not-good-new-detail-drew-mcintyre-wwes-future-not-positive/>

Not Yet: RUMOR KILLER On Huge WWE Match Taking Place This Summer.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/not-yet-rumor-killer-huge-wwe-match-taking-place-summer/>

First Time? Sami Zayn Could Be In For A Very Different Time At The Next WWE Saudi Arabia Show.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/first-time-sami-zayn-different-time-next-wwe-saudi-arabia-show/>

Big Step: Thunder Rosa Deals With Important Issue Before AEW Return.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/big-step-thunder-rosa-deals-important-issue-aew-return/>

Closer? More Details On CM Punk Possibly Returning To AEW, Meeting With Chris Jericho?.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/closer-details-cm-punk-possibly-returning-aew-meeting-chris-jericho/>

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# WCCW TV – February 6, 1988: Anyone Want To Wrestle?

## WCCW TV

Date: February 6, 1988

Location: Dallas Sportatorium, Dallas, Texas

Commentator: Marc Lawrence

It's more WCCW as it's the one year listed on the Network that I haven't covered. As usual I have very little idea of what is going on here but I'd assume that the Von Erichs will be involved. I was three days old when this show aired, meaning it was on a Saturday, thereby ending my trivia about this show. Let's get to it.

Opening sequence.

We open with a clip from Christmas 1987 as Shaun Simpson faces Eric Embry in a cage for the World Lightweight Title. The bloody Embry rolls through a high crossbody and pulls the trunks to win the title.

Then about a month later, Simpson faced and pinned Embry in a rematch, though the title didn't appear to be on the line.

Then they fought again and Embry accidentally bumped the referee so there was no count when Simpson got a cover. Another wrestler came in to count the fall, which I can't imagine counted. Thankfully another referee came in to say not so fast and gave the title back to Embry because the other referee understands how wrestling works. Even commentary was almost calling Simpson ridiculous for that one.

Now we look at John Tatum/Jack Victory vs. the Fantastics from some undated show. Some cheating gave Tatum the pin as we're told this is from the same Christmas night show from before. Then another referee comes out to reverse the decision and give it to the Fantastics. The villains came back and got cleared out again.

Then about a week later, the Fantastics beat an unnamed team but Victory and Tatum ran in to beat them down.

Tatum and Victory don't care that their Texas Tag Team Titles are held up because they won them in the first place and are still the Wild West Tag Team Champions. We see a video from the Fantastics promising vengeance, sending Tatum into a rant about how they won the titles fair and square. They'll win the titles the first chance they get.

#### Al Perez vs. Matt Borne

It's our first match, over a third of the way into the show. Wild Bill Irwin joins commentary and Gary Hart is here with Perez as they grapple around to start. The feeling out process continues with Borne not being able to get very far with Perez. A rollup gives Borne two and Hardy isn't pleased so far. Perez shoves him into the corner for a change but the ans stay behind Borne. The test of strength goes on but neither of them can get very far again. Perez cranks on a hammerlock but Borne seems to go low to escape. That only gets two though and they trade rollups until Perez gets a backslide for the pin at 5:31.

**Rating:** C. The face/heel stuff was a little strange here as Perez wasn't quite the crowd favorite but won in the end anyway. I've always liked Perez and it's nice to see him getting a win. Unless Hart was a good guy at this point (which is hard to fathom), this was kind of backwards and commentary isn't exactly explaining things all that well.

We look back at the end of last week's show with the Von

Ericks beating up Buddy Roberts, the Angel of Death and Iceman Parsons, the latter of whom is handcuffed in the corner (ala Fritz Von Erich on Christmas night, with commentary actually explaining something for once). The villains eventually ran off.

### Angel of Death/Buddy Roberts/Iceman Parsons vs. Chris Adams/Kerry Von Erich/Kevin Von Erich

This is a Penalty Box match, meaning if you get caught cheating, you go to the penalty box (a small cage) for one minute. Get caught again and you're sent in for two minutes. Kerry (he's popular) and Buddy start things off with the former cranking on a wristlock. The discus punch sends Roberts outside fast and we pause a bit for some planning. Angel comes in and knocks Kerry into the corner so it's off to Adams for a headlock.

Kevin comes in for the (barefoot) dropkick as commentary says there is no way Roberts can hang with any of these guys on his own. Roberts gets caught with a cheap shot and gets sent to the box and it's off to Parsons to stomp on Kerry. The discus punch gets Kerry out of trouble but Parsons grabs a sleeper. Roberts comes back in as the fans won't stop chanting for Kerry.

Another sleeper has Roberts in trouble for a change and Kerry drops a nasty looking middle rope knee. Roberts cheats again so Kevin gets in a shot from the apron, earning himself a trip to the box. Parsons comes in and quickly bails straight to the floor from the threat of the Claw. The Angel tries to go after Kerry without a tag and it's off to the box for him as well. Parsons knocks Kerry to the floor (Marc: "Right in the asteroid.") and Kevin goes over to check on him as Angel is out.

Kerry walks around the ring for some reason before catching Parsons' leg and snapping it across the rope. The Figure Four

goes on the bad leg but everything breaks down. Kevin chairs Roberts and Parsons as Angel and Kerry slug it out. Angel is knocked down and walks away as Adams is in the box and Roberts comes in.

We take a break and come back with Kerry gorilla pressing Roberts and Adams getting out of the box (making me think nothing changed in the break). Adams comes in with a top rope ax handle as things have slowed way down. The referee says that's cheating and sends Adams into the box (with Kevin, who apparently went in off screen). Kerry Claws Roberts but here is the Angel again. Not that it matters as Kerry small packages Roberts for 14:38 (commentary didn't notice).

**Rating:** B-. The penalty stuff was a WCCW mainstay but it got a bit confusing at times, as there were penalties that just seemed to pop up with no announcement. Either that or the penalties didn't do much, as nothing would change while someone was in the box. The action was good and it felt like they were mad at each other though so I've seen far worse ideas. Better match than the rest of the show, as the Von Erichs vs. the Freebirds (or bird here) is always worth a look.

Post match Angel uses some handcuffs to lock Adams and Kevin inside...for all of ten seconds before they get out and save Kerry from the beatdown.

**Overall Rating:** C. I'm not sure what to make of this show as so much of it was spent on those recaps of things that happened weeks ago. I can't say it was bad as I got where things were going, but do you really want to just air old stuff for the first 20 minutes or so of an hour long show? The main event was good, but this felt like a recap show for a long time and that's a weird way to go on any given week.

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